

The New Mental Health Management Information System (MIS)

Mental Health Services and its contracted providers have begun the planning and set up phases for implementation of a new MIS. The new system will replace InSyst and eCura; provide scheduling functionality; and implement an Electronic Health Record (EHR). The implementation provides exciting opportunities for ground floor involvement in planning, training, and deployment. Over the next several months, we will be providing additional project updates in this newsletter.

MHS recently surveyed a random sample of staff and discovered that 48% of the respondents were not sure of what constituted an EHR is or how it would affect his/her job.

What is an EHR?

An EHR is an electronic file on a secure computer network that includes, among other items, a patient's financial and demographic information, diagnosis, medication prescribed, assessment results, treatment plans, and progress notes.

Many different types of businesses from transportation to financial institutions have embraced information technology to provide improved services for consumers. In our present outdated, paper-based system the consumer's mental health information may be distributed across files kept by several different programs. With the consumer's mental health information kept in a single EHR, doctors and clinicians can review previous and current diagnoses, prescribed medications, treatment plans, and with that information, better coordinate client care.

What about security?

The new MIS includes all HIPAA mandated security and access requirements that will ensure that protected health information is closely guarded. Access will be limited by a set of criteria including job function, assignment, and activity. The system tracks via user names and passwords all records accessed including screen viewed and/or edited, date, and time. It also includes checks and balances within the system to provide for more accurate claiming to Medi-Cal, Medicare, and other payers.

Please stay tuned . . .

Many staff will need to learn the new system and the MIS Project Management Team is planning for several training sessions to make certain everyone who needs to be trained receives appropriate instruction. In our next article, we will address the project timeline and training plan.